

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2007

Secretary Mike Leavitt
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

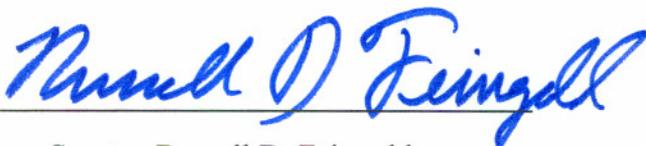
We are writing to advocate for the continuance of Wisconsin's SeniorCare program. As you know, this successful prescription assistance program currently has 108,000 Wisconsin seniors on the rolls, and it is set to expire on June 30, 2007. This program is very important to our state, and we strongly urge you to approve the pending waiver to extend the program to June 30, 2010 as expeditiously as possible.

SeniorCare is an extremely successful program. Although small relative to the entire country, it has a huge impact on the state of Wisconsin. To deny approval of this waiver would cause potential breaks in prescription drug coverage, confusion, and bureaucratic problems for many vulnerable seniors who are otherwise satisfied with their coverage.

In addition to dropping preferred coverage for Wisconsinites, a denied waiver would also cost taxpayers more money. As you know, the average annual federal subsidy for a SeniorCare waiver participant is \$617, less than half the \$1,174 the federal government spends to subsidize a Part D participant. The SeniorCare waiver has consistently achieved budget neutrality and has, in fact, saved \$669 million in Medicaid funding. These savings are the direct result of reduced Medicaid payments for hospital and nursing home care because seniors with SeniorCare prescription drug coverage have stayed healthier longer.

It makes sense to extend this waiver. It is what the state of Wisconsin wants, what the congressional delegation wants, and most of all, what Wisconsin seniors want. We ask for your immediate attention to this matter.

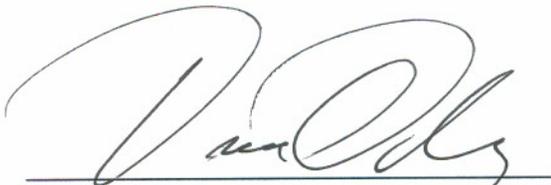
Sincerely,



Senator Russell D. Feingold



Senator Herb Kohl



Representative David Obey



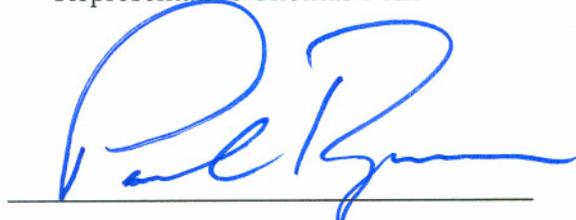
Representative James Sensenbrenner



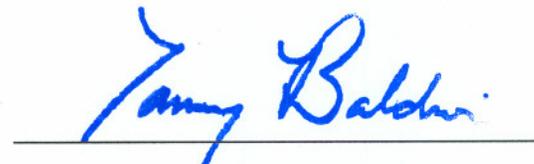
Representative Thomas Petri



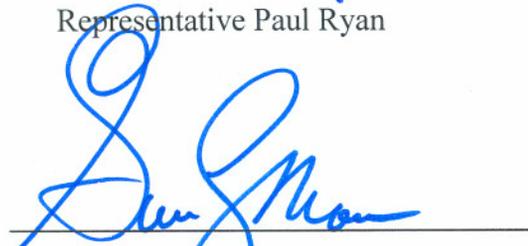
Representative Ron Kind



Representative Paul Ryan



Representative Tammy Baldwin



Representative Gwen Moore



Representative Steve Kagen